IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 7 to 9, 15, 23, 24, 29, 35, 36, 39, 43, 44 and 46 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please add new Claims 48 to 53 as shown below, and please amend Claims 1, 16 to 18, 30 to 33, 40, 41 and 47 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A reception apparatus comprising:

a plurality of channel estimation means;

combining means for combining signals from paths in accordance with outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means; ~~and~~

~~evaluating means for evaluating the outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means in accordance with outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means~~

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decoding means for decoding the outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means; and

evaluating means for evaluating the outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means on the basis of errors of the outputs from said decoding means, which correspond to the outputs from said combining means, which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said evaluation means comprises selection means for selecting one of the outputs from said combining

means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means in accordance with an evaluation.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said combining means comprises a plurality of combiners corresponding to said plurality of channel estimation means.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said channel estimation means estimates a channel from a de-spread reception signal.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of channel estimation means estimates a channel by an interpolation method.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of channel estimation means estimates a channel by a double slot averaging method.

7. to 9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said evaluation means evaluates the outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means with respect to pilot symbols.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said evaluation means evaluates the outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means with respect to periodically received pilot symbols.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said evaluation means evaluates the outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means in units of frames.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said evaluation means evaluates the outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means with respect to frames including frame error detection codes.

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14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said evaluation means comprises selection means for selecting one of the outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means in units of frames in accordance with an evaluation.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said evaluation means comprises~~ A reception apparatus comprising:

a plurality of channel estimates means;

combining means for combining signals from paths in accordance with outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means;

decision means for performing symbol decision with respect to the outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means; ; and

~~evaluates~~ evaluating means for evaluating the outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means in accordance with errors based on the decision made by said decision means with respect to said plurality of channel estimation means.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 16 ~~1~~, wherein said evaluation means ~~comprises decision means for performing symbol decision with respect to the outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means, and~~ evaluates the outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means in accordance with an average of errors based on the decision made by said decision means with respect to said plurality of channel estimation means.

18. (Currently Amended) A reception apparatus comprising:

a plurality of channel estimation means;

combining means for combining signals from paths in accordance with outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means;

detection means for detecting errors of outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means; and

selection means for selecting one of the outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means, ~~in accordance with an error detected by said detection means~~

wherein said detection means comprises decoding means for decoding the outputs from said combining means, which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means, and said selection means selects one of the outputs from said combining means on the basis of errors of outputs from said decoding means corresponding to the outputs from said combining means, which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said combining means comprises a plurality of combiners corresponding to said plurality of channel estimation means.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said channel estimation means estimates a channel from a de-spread reception signal.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein one of said plurality of channel estimation means estimates a channel by an interpolation method.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein one of said plurality of channel estimation means estimates a channel by a double slot averaging method.

23. and 24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of the outputs from said combining means in accordance with an error detected with respect to a pilot symbol.

26. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of the outputs from said combining means in accordance with an error detected with respect to periodically received pilot symbols.

27. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of the outputs from said combining means in units of frames.

28. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said selection means selects one of the outputs from said combining means in units of frames including frame error detection codes.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 18,~~ A reception apparatus comprising:

a plurality of channel estimation means;

combining means for combining signals from paths in accordance with outputs from said plurality of channel estimation means;

detection means for detecting errors of output from said combining means, which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means; and

selection means for selecting one of the outputs from said combining means, which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means,

wherein said detection means comprises decision means for performing symbol decision with respect to the outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means, and said selection means selects one of the outputs from said combining means in accordance with errors based on the decision made by said decision means with respect to said plurality of channel estimation means.

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31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 30 ~~18~~, wherein said ~~detection means comprises decision means for performing symbol decision with respect to the outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means, and~~ selection means selects one of the outputs from said combining means in accordance with an average of errors based on the decision made by said decision means with respect to said plurality of channel estimation means.

32. (Currently Amended) A reception method comprising the steps of:

performing a plurality of channel estimations;

combining signals from paths in accordance with the respective results of the plurality of channel estimations; ~~and~~

~~evaluating the results of the plurality of channel estimations in accordance with combination results obtained in the combining step for the plurality of channel estimations~~

decoding the combination results in the combining step which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations; and

evaluating the plurality of channel estimations on the basis of errors of decoding results in the decoding step, which correspond to the combination results in the combining step, which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein the estimation step comprises ~~the~~ a selection step of selecting one of the combination results obtained in the combining step for the plurality of channel estimations.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the channel estimation step comprises estimating a channel from a de-spread reception signal.

35. and 36. (Canceled)

37. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the evaluation step comprises evaluating the plurality of channel estimations with respect to pilot symbols.

38. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the evaluation step comprises evaluating the plurality of channel estimations in units of frames.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 32, wherein the evaluation step comprises~~ A reception method comprising the steps of:

performing a plurality of channel estimations;

combining signals from paths in accordance with the respective results of the plurality of channel estimations;

performing symbol decision with respect to outputs combined in the combining step which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations, and

evaluating the plurality of channel estimations in accordance with errors based on the symbol decision in the symbol decision performing step which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations.

41. (Currently Amended) A reception method comprising the steps of:

performing a plurality of channel estimations;

combining signals from paths in accordance with the respective results of the plurality of channel estimations;

detecting errors of combination results in the combining step which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations; and

selecting one of the combination results in the combining step which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations, ~~in accordance with an error detected in the detection step~~

wherein the selecting step comprises a step of decoding the combination results in the combining step, which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations and one of the combination results in the combining step on the basis of errors of decoding results in the decoding step, which correspond to the combination results in the combining step, which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations.

42. (Original) The method according to claim 41, wherein the channel estimation step comprises estimating a channel from a de-spread reception signal.

43. and 44. (Canceled)

45. (Original) The method according to claim 41, wherein the selection step comprises selecting one of the combination results in the combining step in units of frames.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 41,~~ A reception method comprising the steps of;

performing a plurality of channel estimations;

combining signals from paths in accordance with the respective results of the plurality of channel estimations;

detecting errors of combination results in the combining step, which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations; and

selecting one of the combination results in the combining step, which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations in accordance with an error detected in the detection step,

wherein the ~~selection~~ detecting step comprises a step of performing symbol decision with respect to outputs combined in the combining step which respectively correspond to the plurality of channel estimations, and the selecting step comprises a step of evaluating the plurality of channel estimations in accordance with errors based on the symbol decision in the symbol decision performing step with respect to the plurality of channel estimations.

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48. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said evaluation means comprises selection means for selecting one of the outputs from said combining means which respectively correspond to said plurality of channel estimation means in accordance with an evaluation.

49. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein one of said plurality of channel estimation means estimates a channel by an interpolation method.

50. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein one of said plurality of channel estimation means estimates a channel by a double slot averaging method.

51. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein one of said plurality of channel estimation means estimates a channel by an interpolation method.

52. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein one of said plurality of channel estimation means estimates a channel by a double slot averaging method.

53. (New) The method according to Claim 40, wherein the estimation step comprises a selection step of selecting one of the combination results obtained in the combining step for the plurality of channel estimations.